



STATE OF IOWA

THOMAS J. VILSACK, GOVERNOR
SALLY J. PEDERSON, LT. GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
JUDY A. JEFFREY, DIRECTOR

Date: February 2005

To: Area Education Agency Education Service Directors
Local Education Agencies Superintendents and Administrators

From: Judy Jeffrey, Director of Education
Susan Fischer, Interim Executive Director, Board of Educational Examiners
Carmen P. Sosa, Consultant, ESL/Bilingual and Foreign Languages, Bureau of Instructional Services
John O'Connell, Consultant, Instructional Technology, Bureau of Instructional Services
Geri McMahon, Consultant, Board of Educational Examiners

Subject: **Invitation, *Visiting Teachers from Spain Program***

We would like to invite you to participate in an exciting venture, ***The Visiting Teacher from Spain Program***. This program provides local school districts with the opportunity to fill vacant Spanish teaching positions. This is the fifth year for the program in Iowa. Currently, there are six school districts participating: Tri-County, Bennett, Holy Family Catholic School at Dubuque, Gilbert, New London, and St. Edmond Catholic at Fort Dodge. Some of the general reactions to the program from the administrators are, "This program [made it possible for us] to give our students a chance to continue their Spanish." "I have been the supervisor of this program and am pleased with the results for our students."

With the Visiting Teachers from Spain Program, Iowa school systems have the option of recruiting highly qualified Spanish educators for a period of up to three years and at the same time provide Iowa students, parents, and communities the opportunity to work with professionals from other countries. Visiting teachers from Spain are qualified educators with at least two years of teaching experience. Local school districts hire the visiting teachers in accordance with all other local policies in terms of salary scale, licensure, and local systems requirements. The Iowa Department of Education will assess a fee (\$850.00 estimated) to the local school districts for the application processes and fees, orientation, and training.

The program strives to:

- ❖ Promote cultural and educational relations that will benefit the State of Iowa and Spain.
- ❖ Foster knowledge and appreciation of the culture shared by these two global communities.
- ❖ Foster an educational environment that supports both students and teachers in their continued and future effort toward personal, academic, and professional success.
- ❖ Utilize technology to promote teaching and learning of world languages.

Grimes State Office Building - Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0146

PHONE (515) 281-5294 FAX (515) 242-5988

www.state.ia.us/educate

Helping Communities Meet the Learning Needs of All Their Children and Adults

Please disseminate this information to the school principals or respective officials in charge of hiring. If your school district is in need of a qualified Spanish teacher and might be interested in hiring a teacher from Spain, please complete the enclosed **Application of Intent**. This Application of Intent **DOES NOT** obligate the local school district to hire teachers from Spain. It only expresses a local school district's interest in participating in the program. All Applications of Intent need **to be returned by April 1, 2005** to the Iowa Department of Education.

Enclosed are also a detailed explanation of the Visiting Teacher from Spain Program and a flier. If you have any questions, please contact:

Carmen P. Sosa, Ph.D.
515-281-3805
FAX 515-242-6025
carmen.sosa@iowa.gov

John O'Connell
515-242-6354
FAX 515-242-6025
john.oconnell@iowa.gov

Geri McMahon
515-281-8323
FAX 515-281-7669
geri.mcmahon@iowa.gov

Thanks for your interest in the program and for your continuing support of world languages programs in Iowa. We are looking forward for your participation.

Enclosures:

The Visiting Teachers from Spain Program (Flier)
Visiting Teachers from Spain Program (Process and Responsibilities)
Application of Intent 2005-2006